

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-4, 6, 11, 13, 15, 22, 23 and 27-33, CANCEL claims 5, 25 and 26 and ADD new claim 34 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a division unit dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

a providing unit providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

a distribution unit distributing ~~a~~the plurality of divided images ~~obtained by said division unit~~ to corresponding image generation devices; and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices, the plurality of divided images and the reference image being substantially simultaneously displayed using the corresponding image generation devices;

a display unit displaying the divided image and the reference image in the image generation device; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image distribution device for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a division unit dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

a providing unit providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

a distribution unit distributing ~~a~~the plurality of divided images ~~obtained by said division unit~~ to corresponding image generation devices; and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices, the plurality of divided images and the reference image being substantially simultaneously displayed using the corresponding image generation devices; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation device in a plurality of image generation devices for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using the plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a display unit receiving from an image distribution device a divided image obtained by dividing a target image and a reference image corresponding to the target image, and substantially simultaneously displaying the divided image and the reference image using corresponding image generation devices; and

a transmission unit generating an image corresponding to the divided image at an instruction of a user, and transmitting the image to the image distribution device.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

distributing a plurality of divided images to corresponding image generation devices, and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices;

substantially simultaneously displaying the plurality of divided images and the reference image using the corresponding image generation devices;

displaying the divided image and the reference image in the image generation device; and

integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program ~~for providing a method of~~ to cause a computer to execute operations including generating an image by generating or editing an image-images using a plurality of image generation devices, said method-operations comprising:

dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;  
providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;  
distributing a plurality of divided images to corresponding image generation devices, and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices;  
substantially simultaneously displaying the plurality of divided images and the reference image using the corresponding image generation devices; and  
integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein said distribution unit distributes only a divided image requiring generation of a corresponding divided image to the image generation device.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein said distribution unit distributes together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device a first identifier identifying the target image, and at least one of a second identifier identifying an area divided by said division unit and a third identifier identifying each layer.

10. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 9, wherein:  
each image generation device assigns the first identifier and at least one of the second and third identifiers to a generated or edited divided image; and  
said integration unit integrates divided images based on identifiers assigned to divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:  
a division unit having at least a function of dividing a target image into a plurality of areas ~~and or~~ a function of dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

a distribution unit distributing images divided by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices;

a generation unit generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices, and

wherein:

said distribution unit distributes time series information defining a time interval of each frame and a total number of frames of a moving picture to be generated together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

said image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information.

12. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 11, wherein said integration unit integrates the plurality of divided images generated by the plurality of image generation devices into a plurality of images.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a division unit having at least a function of dividing a target image into a plurality of areas ~~and or~~ a function of dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

a distribution unit distributing images divided by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices;

a generation unit generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices, and,

wherein:

said distribution unit distributes image movement information ~~defining movement of~~ including data indicative of an image element drawn to be moved in a distributed image and data

defining a basic movement, enlargement/reduction, rotation of the indicated image element  
together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

said image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to  
divided images received according to the image movement information.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 13, wherein said image movement  
information contains as a condition of defining movement of the image element at least one of  
information defining required time, information defining a time interval of each frame of moving  
picture, information defining enlargement or reduction of the image element, and information  
defining rotation of the image element.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation system which generates or edits  
an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a division unit having at least a function of dividing a target image into a plurality of areas  
~~and~~ or a function of dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a  
plurality of layers;

a distribution unit distributing images divided by said division unit to corresponding image  
generation devices;

a generation unit generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received  
divided image in each image generation device; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of  
image generation devices, and,

wherein:

said image generation device outputs a divided image ~~being generated~~ that is not  
completed; and

said integration unit integrates divided images ~~being generated~~ that are not completed,  
from respective image generation devices, ~~and~~

said distribution unit transmits an image integrated by said integration unit to each image  
generation device, and

said image generation device substantially simultaneously displays the divided image  
and a corresponding integrated image.

16. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 15, wherein said image generation device outputs a divided image being generated at an instruction from a source of the divided image or at each predetermined time interval.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein:  
said image generation device outputs a divided image in a difference data format; and  
said integration unit regenerates a divided image by adding a newly received divided image to a previously received divided image, and integrates regenerated divided images.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, further comprising  
an alarm unit raising an alarm when a position of an image element contained in a target divided image are not consistent with a position of the same image element contained in an adjacent divided images.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein said division unit divides a target image based on an arrangement of an image element in the target image or a characteristic of the target image.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein said division unit divides the target image such that a sum of lengths of division lines for dividing the target image is smallest.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 11, wherein said division unit divides the target image depending on a number of image generation devices.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image distribution device for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a division unit having at least one of a function of dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function of dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

a distribution unit distributing images divided by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices, each of the images divided being distributed with information of a respective layer;

a generation unit generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated by the plurality of image generation devices, and

wherein:

said distribution unit distributes time series information defining a moving picture to be generated, data indicative of an image element to be moved in a distributed image and data defining a basic movement, enlargement/reduction, rotation of the indicated image element together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

said image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image generation device in a plurality of image generation devices for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using the plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

a generation unit receiving a divided image obtained by dividing a target image from an image distribution device; ~~and generating a corresponding divided image,~~ the divided image and the target image being substantially simultaneously displayed using corresponding plurality of image generation devices; and

a transmission unit transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said distribution unit or at each predetermined time interval.

24. (ORIGINAL) The device according to claim 23, further comprising a display unit displaying an image obtained by integrating divided images being generated by the image distribution device.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program ~~for providing a method of to cause a computer to execute operations including~~ generating an image by generating or editing ~~an image~~ images using a plurality of image generation devices, said ~~method~~ comprising:

providing at least a function for dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function for dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

distributing the divided images divided by said function to corresponding image generation device, each of the images divided being distributed with information of a respective layer;

generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device; and

integrating divided images generated by the plurality of image generation device, and wherein:

said distributing distributes time series information defining a moving picture to be generated together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

said generating or editing generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program for providing a method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

receiving a divided image obtained by dividing a target image from an image distribution device, and generating a corresponding divided image, the divided image and the target image being substantially simultaneously displayed using corresponding plurality of image generation devices; and

transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said image distribution device or at each predetermined time interval, wherein data indicative of an image element to be moved in the divided image and data defining a basic movement, enlargement/reduction, rotation of the indicated image element is transmitted together with the divided image.



29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product for generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

a program code for dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

a program code for providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

a program code for distributing a plurality of divided images to corresponding image generation devices; and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices, the plurality of divided images and the reference image being substantially simultaneously displayed at the corresponding image generation devices;

a program code generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device; and

a program code for integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product for generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

a program code for providing at least a function for dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function for dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

a program code for distributing the divided images divided by said function to corresponding image generation device, each of the divided images being distributed with information of a respective layer; and

a program code for integrating divided images generated by the plurality of image generation device, and

wherein:

said distributing distributes time series information defining a moving picture to be generated, data indicative of an image element to be moved in a distributed image and data defining a basic movement, enlargement/reduction, rotation of the indicated image element together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

said generating or editing generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product for generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

a program code for receiving a divided image obtained by dividing a target image from an image distribution device, and generating a corresponding divided image;

a program code for substantially simultaneously displaying the divided image and the target image using corresponding plurality of image generation devices; and

a program code for transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said image distribution device or at each predetermined time interval, wherein data indicative of an image element to be moved in the distributed image and data defining a basic movement, enlargement/reduction, rotation of the indicated image element is transmitted together with the divided image.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing method, comprising:

dividing an image to be processed into portions;

transferring one of the portions and the image to an editor;

substantially simultaneously displaying the one portion transferred and the image using the editor; and

allowing the portion to be edited by the editor with reference to the image.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing method, comprising:

dividing an image to be processed into portions;

transferring a first one of the portions and the image to a first editor;

transferring a second one of the portions and the image to a second editor;

substantially simultaneously displaying the first one of the portions and the image using the first editor, and simultaneously displaying the second one of the portions and the image using the second editor;

allowing the portion to be respectively edited by the first and second editors with reference to the image;

updating the image with the portions responsive to the editing; and

transferring the updated image to the first and second editors.

34. (NEW) A method of processing an image using image generation devices, comprising:

transmitting a divided portion of the image including a reference image to each of the image generation devices;

correspondingly displaying the divided portion of the image and the reference image using the image generation devices, the reference image indicative of a change made to the image by at least one of the image generation devices; and

integrating the divided portion of the image from the at least one of the image generation devices reflective of the changes made to the image and transmitting the integrated image to each of the image generation devices.